



U.S. CONGRESS

**Maria**

CHAPPELLE-NADAL

Chappelle-Nadal for Congress  
1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
P.O. Box 300254  
St. Louis, MO 63130

314.635.VOTE

www.Maria2016.com

August 26, 2016

Federal Election Commission  
Office of Complaints Examination & Legal Administration  
Attn: Mary Beth deBeau, Paralegal  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Chappelle-Nadal for Congress  
MUR 7106

Dear Ms. deBeau:

This is in response to Assistant General Counsel Jeff Jordan's letter of August 11, 2016, addressed to me as Treasurer of Chappelle-Nadal for Congress, and the corresponding letter of complaint from Michelle C. Clay dated July 27, 2016, addressed to the FEC.

I had previously responded to Mr. Jordan's July 18, 2016, letter and the corresponding letter of complaint from Michelle C. Clay dated June 26, 2016; and to his July 25, 2016, letter enclosing a letter of complaint from Mary Patricia Dorsey dated July 8, 2016. My responses were addressed directly to Mr. Jordan. I now note the request to respond to you instead and do so. If the earlier letters were misdirected and not available to you for that reason, please let me know and I will resend them.

In her July 27, 2016, letter Ms. Clay provides five paragraphs of factual allegations. None cites any statute or regulation Ms. Clay believes has been violated. None even explains in general terms why Ms. Clay might question the lawfulness of the facts set forth. The entire letter simply states bare-bones factual allegations. It is difficult in such circumstances to respond. Nonetheless, I shall offer brief statements on each paragraph of Ms. Clay's letter.

#### 1. Statewide Candidate Committee

The first paragraph of the letter states that State Senator Chappelle-Nadal has created a candidate committee "for statewide office for the 2020 primary election, without declaring which specific office is sought." This is expressly permitted under Missouri election law.

RSMo §130.011.1(4) defines "candidate" to include "an individual who seeks nomination or election whether or not the specific elective public office to be sought has been finally determined by such individual at the time . . . ." This applies to State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's statewide candidate status for the 2020 primary.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

2016 AUG 29 PM 3:33

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A "candidate," as defined by RSMo §130.011.1(4) may form a "Candidate committee" "to receive contributions or make expenditures in behalf of the person's candidacy." RSMo §130.011.1(5). That State Senator Chappelle-Nadal has not yet declared for a specific office is simply irrelevant. She has every right to form a general statewide candidate committee.

## **2. Contributions from State Senate Candidate Committee to State and Local Candidates**

The first paragraph of Ms. Clay's letter also states that certain amounts were contributed from State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's state senate campaign account to candidates on the August 2, 2016, primary ballot and that other expenditures were made from this account. It is, again, left to us to guess how and why Ms. Clay believes this may be unlawful. But under RSMo § 130.034.2(5), contributions to support a candidate for state or local office may be used to contribute to another candidate's campaign committee, which is what is described.

Similarly, the second paragraph of Ms. Clay's letter states that State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's state senate campaign account reported second-quarter contributions to five campaigns participating in the August 2 primary that were outside State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's state senate district, but within the first congressional district. The third paragraph refers to five more such contributions. Again, this is expressly permitted under RSMo § 130.034.2(5). Ms. Clay cites no statute or law that would limit such contributions geographically in any manner.

## **3. Reported Advertising expenditure State Senate Candidate Committee**

The third paragraph of Ms. Clay's letter states that State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's state senate campaign account reported "expenditures for a radio ad on her congressional campaign signature issue." I believe the expenditure in question was a payment to the St. Louis Spotlight for a newspaper ad concerning radioactive waste. Under RSMo § 130.034.2(2) expenditures such as these are "ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of a holder of elective office."

This ad made no reference to the congressional race, but was instead written as a constituent communication in State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's continuing capacity as a state senator. Mr. Clay may have chosen not to treat this issue as significant, but it is indeed a "signature issue" for State Senator Chappelle-Nadal, and as such one she had every intention of pursuing vigorously, whether or not elected to Congress.

## **4. Media Reports**

The fourth paragraph of Ms. Clay's letter refers to a St. Louis Public Radio segment concerning State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's support for local candidates to whom her state senate candidate committee donated. As stated above, such donations are expressly permitted under Missouri election law.

Ms. Clay encloses an article with a picture of one of the recipients of such donations "distributing State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's congressional flyer." The item depicted was

actually a two-sided "doorhanger." One side supported State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's congressional campaign, and the other supported Marty Murray's campaign for seventh Ward committeeman. The two candidates split the printing costs. Murray followed state law by including an accurate "paid for by" statement on his side. State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's side likewise disclosed payment by Chappelle-Nadal for Congress.

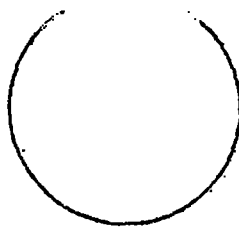
Lastly, the fifth paragraph of Ms. Clay's letter refers yet again to State Senator Chappelle-Nadal's state senate campaign account's contributions to state and local candidates, citing the St. Louis American headline: "Maria Chappelle-Nadal invests in progressive candidates she think [sic] can help her win." Examination of the article discloses that State Senator Chappelle-Nadal was only hoping to stimulate turnout of new progressive voters to support these state and local candidates. This is a perfectly lawful coalition strategy.

I trust this answers any questions concerning compliance with applicable election law by Chappelle-Nadal for Congress that may have been raised by Ms. Clay's letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lenard". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke.

George Lenard  
Treasurer, Chappelle-Nadal for Congress

ENCLOSURES



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-Maria Chappelle-Nadal

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*Maria*

CHAPPELLE-NADAL



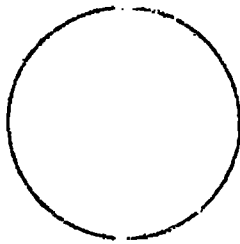
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08/20/14



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*Vote August 2nd, 2016*

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARTY MURRAY JR, DEAN JONES, TREASURER



3433 Hampton Avenue  
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cathie@inkspotshs.com

# Invoice

Date Invoice #  
6/10/2016 43235

Bill To  
CHAPPELLE - NADAL FOR CONGRESS

**PAID**  
06/10/2016

P.O. No. Terms Due Date  
6/10/2016

Description	Amount
500 DOOR HANGERS - DOUBLE SIDED - FULL COLOR - 4.25 X 11	154.00T

Subtotal	\$154.00
Sales Tax (8.679%)	\$13.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$167.37</b>

Past due balances are subject to a 1.5% service charge per month.

/0511/ ROYAL BANKS OF MISSOURI

Document Image

Wednesday, Aug 24 2016

Check Number 1035  
Account Number  
Trancode 19-On Us Check

Amount 292.35  
Sequence Number 80101090  
Date 08/14/2016

CHAPPELLE-NADAL FOR CONGRESS 3-448-2457 **Royal Banks** 1035  
P.O. BOX 300264 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
UNIVERSITY CITY, MO 63130 80-143610

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Shirley Spat \$ 292.35  
Two Hundred and Ninety Two and 35/100 DOLLARS  
William Chappelle-Nadal

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